

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for specifying using a data processing system comprising the steps of:
reading a first list from a dictionary database;
attempting to match a set of user input to the first list to select a first element;
if a definitive match is not made, displaying a list of possible first elements from the first
list and permitting selection of a member of the possible first elements list;
reading a second list from the dictionary database based upon the selected first element;
attempting to match the set of user input to the second list to select a second element;
if a definitive match is not made, displaying a list of possible second elements from the
second list and permitting selection of a member of the possible second element
list;
reading a third list from the dictionary database based upon the selected first element and
the selected second element;
attempting to match the set of user input to the third list to select a set of third elements
and corresponding third element values;
if a definitive match is not made, displaying a list of possible third elements from the
third list and permitting selection of a set of third elements of the possible third
element list and entry of corresponding third element values;
composing a specification from the selected member of the first list, the selected member
of the second list, and the selected set of third elements and corresponding third
element values.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first list is mutually-exclusive.

- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the second list is mutually-exclusive.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the first list is mutually-exclusive.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 determining appropriate first synonyms for the first element; and
3 adding the first synonyms to the specification.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 determining appropriate first synonyms for the second element; and
3 adding the second synonyms to the specification.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 determining appropriate third synonyms for an element of the set of third elements; and
3 adding the third synonyms to the specification.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of attempting to match the user input to the first
2 list is accomplished with further reference to external factors.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 permitting the user to elect entry of a freeform specification;
3 accepting entry of a freeform specification; and
4 composing the specification from the freeform specification.
- 1 10. The method of claim 4 wherein

2 the specification is of a good,
3 the first list is a list of nouns and the first element is a noun,
4 the second list is a list of adjectives and the second element is an adjective, and
5 the third list is a list of attributes and the members of the set of third elements are
6 attributes.

1 11. The method of claim 4 wherein
2 the specification is of a service,
3 the first list is a list of verbs and the first element is a verb,
4 the second list is a list of adverbs and the second element is an adverb, and
5 the third list is a list of attributes and the members of the set of third elements are
6 attributes.

1 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of:
2 determining appropriate first synonyms for the first element; and
3 adding the first synonyms to the specification.

1 13. The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of:
2 determining appropriate first synonyms for the second element; and
3 adding the second synonyms to the specification.

1 14. The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of:
2 determining appropriate third synonyms for an element of the set of third elements; and
3 adding the third synonyms to the specification.

- 1 15. The method of claim 10 wherein each attribute comprises a value.
- 1 16. The method of claim 11 wherein each attribute comprises a value.
- 1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
2 determining appropriate first synonyms for the first element; and
3 adding the first synonyms to the specification.
- 1 18. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
2 determining appropriate first synonyms for the second element; and
3 adding the second synonyms to the specification.
- 1 19. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
2 determining appropriate third synonyms for an element of the set of third elements; and
3 adding the third synonyms to the specification.
- 1 20. The method of claim 15 wherein each attribute further comprises a label.
- 1 21. The method of claim 16 wherein each attribute further comprises a label.
- 1 22. The method of claim 1 comprising the additional step of writing the specification to a
2 listing database.
- 1 23. The method of claim 10 comprising the additional step of writing the specification to a
2 listing database.

1 24. The method of claim 11 comprising the additional step of writing the specification to a
2 listing database.

1 25. The method of claim 22 comprising the additional step of passing the specification to a
2 server.

1 26. The method of claim 22 wherein the specification is used to add to the listing database
2 a description of the element.

1 27. The method of claim 1 wherein the specification is used to compose a query to locate a
2 certain element the database.

1 28. The method of claim 10 wherein the specification is used to compose a query to locate
2 a certain element the database.

1 29. The method of claim 11 wherein the specification is used to compose a query to locate
2 a certain element the database.

1 30. The method of claim 1 wherein the specification is composed in a different language
2 from that utilized during the other steps in the method.

1 31. The method of claim 25 wherein the specification is passed in a different language from
2 that utilized during the other steps in the method.

1 32. The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a sales
2 system.

1 33. The method of claim 10 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a
2 sales system.

1 34. The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a
2 system to facilitate goods sales.

1 35. The method of claim 10 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a
2 system to facilitate goods sales.

1 36. The method of claim 11 wherein the data processing system is configured to facilitate the
2 ordering of services.

1 37. The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a
2 search engine.

1 38. The method of claim 4 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a local
2 search engine.

1 39. The method of claim 10 wherein the data processing system is configured to access an
2 inventory control system.

1 40. The method of claim 10 wherein the data processing system comprises an inventory
2 control system.

1 41. The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a
2 customer assistance software.

1 42. The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a
2 computerized telephone directory service.

1 43. The method of claim 11 wherein the data processing system comprises a computerized
2 telephone directory service.

1 44. The method of claim 10 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a
2 point of sale system.

1 45. The method of claim 10 wherein the data processing system comprises a point of sale
2 system.

1 46. The method of claim 30 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a
2 computerized translation service.

1 47. The method of claim 30 wherein the data processing system comprises a computerized
2 translation service.

1 48. The method of claim 10 wherein the data processing system comprises a system
2 configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 49. The method of claim 11 wherein the data processing system comprises a system
2 configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 50. The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a web
2 page authoring system.

1 51. The method of claim 1 wherein the data processing system comprises a web page
2 authoring system.

1 52. The method of claim 25 wherein the data processing system is configured to access sales
2 databases.

1 53. The method of claim 23 wherein the data processing system is configured to access a
2 search engine.

1 54. The method of claim 25 wherein the data processing system comprises a search engine.

1 55. The method of claim 23 wherein the listing database is a part of an inventory control
2 system.

1 56. The method of claim 23 wherein the data processing system comprises an inventory
2 control system.

1 57. The method of claim 25 wherein the server is a customer assistance software.

1 58. The method of claim 25 wherein the server is a computerized telephone directory service.

1 59. The method of claim 25 wherein the server is an element of a point of sale system.

1 60. The method of claim 25 wherein the server is a computerized translation service.

1 61. The method of claim 25 wherein the data processing system comprises a computerized
2 translation service.

1 62. The method of claim 23 wherein the database is an element of an advertisement system.

1 63. The method of claim 24 wherein the database is an element of an advertisement system.

1 64. The method of claim 62 wherein the advertisement system comprises a system configured
2 to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 65. The method of claim 63 wherein the advertisement system comprises a system configured
2 to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 66. The method of claim 25 wherein the server is a web page authoring system.

- 1 67. The method of claim 25 wherein the data processing system comprises an Internet web
2 page authoring system.

1 68. A computer program product in a computer-readable medium adapted to specifying using
2 a data processing system, the computer program product comprising:
3 a first list reading code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data processing
4 system to read a first list from a dictionary database;
5 a first matching code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data processing
6 system to attempt to match a set of user input to the first list to select a first
7 element;
8 a first element selection code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data
9 processing system to display a list of possible first elements from the first list and
10 permit selection of a member of the first list if a definitive match is not made by
11 the first matching code;
12 a second list reading code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data
13 processing system to read a second list from the dictionary database based upon
14 the selected first element;
15 a second matching code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data processing
16 system to attempt to match the set of user input to the second list to select a
17 second element;
18 a second element selection code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data
19 processing system to display a list of possible second elements from the second
20 list and permit selection of a member of the second list if a definitive match is not
21 made by the second matching code;
22 a third list reading code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data processing
23 system to read a third list from the dictionary database based upon the selected
24 first element and the selected second element;

25 a third matching code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data processing
26 system to attempt to match the set of user input to the third list to select a set of
27 third elements and corresponding third element values;
28 a third element selection code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data
29 processing system to display a list of possible third elements from the third list
30 and permit selection of a set of third elements and entry of corresponding third
31 element values if a definitive match is not made by the third matching code;
32 a composition code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data processing
33 system to compose a specification from the first element, the second element, and
34 the set of third elements and corresponding values.

1 69. The method of claim 68 wherein the first list is mutually-exclusive.

1 70. The method of claim 68 wherein the second list is mutually-exclusive.

1 71. The method of claim 70 wherein the first list is mutually-exclusive.

1 72. The computer program product of claim 68 wherein
2 the specification is of a good,
3 the first list is a list of nouns and the first element is a noun,
4 the second list is a list of adjectives and the second element is an adjective, and
5 the third list is a list of attributes and the members of the set of third elements are
6 attributes.

1 73. The computer program product of claim 71 wherein

2 the specification is of a good,
3 the first list is a list of nouns and the first element is a noun,
4 the second list is a list of adjectives and the second element is an adjective, and
5 the third list is a list of attributes and the members of the set of third elements are
6 attributes.

1 74. The method of claim 70 wherein
2 the specification is of a service,
3 the first list is a list of verbs and the first element is a verb,
4 the second list is a list of adverbs and the second element is an adverb, and
5 the third list is a list of attributes and the members of the set of third elements are
6 attributes.

1 75. The computer program product of claim 68 further comprising:
2 a specification writing code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data
3 processing system to write the specification to a listing database.

1 76. The computer program product of claim 73 further comprising:
2 a specification writing code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data
3 processing system to write the specification to a listing database.

1 77. The computer program product of claim 68 further comprising:
2 a specification passing code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data
3 processing system to passing the specification to a server.

1 78. The computer program product of claim 73 further comprising:
2 a specification passing code comprising a set of codes operable to direct the data
3 processing system to passing the specification to a server.

1 79. The computer program product of claim 73 wherein the specification is suitable to be
2 used to add a description of the good to a database.

1 80. The computer program product of claim 73 wherein the specification is suitable to be
2 used to locate a description of a good within a database.

1 81. The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the composition code further
2 comprises codes to direct the data processing system to compose the specification in a different
3 language from that previously used by the user to select the first element, the second element and
4 the set of third elements and corresponding values.

1 82. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the specification passing code further
2 comprises codes operable to direct the data processing system to pass to the specification in a
3 different language from that used by the user to select the first element, the second element and
4 the set of third elements and corresponding values.

1 83. The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to facilitate sales on-line.

1 84. The computer program product of claim 73 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to facilitate the sales of goods.

1 85. The computer program product of claim 70 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to facilitate sales.

1 86. The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to facilitate sales locally.

1 87. The computer program product of claim 74 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to facilitate locating services locally.

1 88. The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a search engine.

1 89. The computer program product of claim 76 wherein the database is a component of a
2 search engine.

1 90. The computer program product of claim 73 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access an inventory control system.

1 91. The computer program product of claim 73 wherein the specification defines an element
2 in an inventory control system.

1 92. The computer program product of claim 73 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a computerized telephone directory service.

1 93. The computer program product of claim 74 wherein the specification defines an element
2 in a computerized telephone directory service.

1 94. The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a point of sale system.

1 95. The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the specification defines an element
2 in a point of sale system.

1 96. The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a translation service.

1 97. The computer program product of claim 68 wherein the specification defines an element
2 in the database of a translation service.

1 98. The computer program product of claim 73 wherein the data processing system comprises
2 a system configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 99. The computer program product of claim 74 wherein the data processing system comprises
2 a system configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 100. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access an inventory control system.

1 101. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system comprises
2 an inventory control system.

1 102. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a customer assistance software.

1 103. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a computerized telephone directory service.

1 104. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system comprises
2 a computerized telephone directory service.

1 105. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a point of sale system.

1 106. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system comprises
2 a point of sale system.

1 107. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a computerized translation service.

1 108. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system comprises
2 a computerized translation service.

1 109. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a database system.

1 110. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system comprises
2 a database system.

1 111. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access an advertisement system.

1 112. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system comprises
2 an advertisement system.

1 113. The computer program product of claim 111 wherein the advertisement system comprises
2 a system configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 114. The computer program product of claim 112 wherein the advertisement system comprises
2 a system configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 115. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access an Internet web page authoring system.

1 116. The computer program product of claim 78 wherein the data processing system comprises
2 an Internet web page authoring system.

1 117. A method of doing business providing the service of specifying using a data processing
2 system, the method of business comprising the steps of:
3 reading a first list from a dictionary database;
4 attempting to match a set of user input to the first list to select a first element;
5 if a definitive match is not made, displaying a list of possible first elements from the first
6 list and permitting selection of a member of the possible first elements list;
7 reading a second list from the dictionary database based upon the selected first element;
8 attempting to match the set of user input to the second list to select a second element;
9 if a definitive match is not made, displaying a list of possible second elements from the
10 second list and permitting selection of a member of the possible second element
11 list;
12 reading a third list from the dictionary database based upon the selected first element and
13 the selected second element;
14 attempting to match the set of user input to the third list to select a set of third elements
15 and corresponding values;
16 if a definitive match is not made, displaying a list of possible third elements from the
17 third list and permitting selection of a set of third elements and entry of
18 corresponding values;
19 composing a specification from the selected first element, the selected second element,
20 and the selected set of third elements and corresponding values; and
21 receiving revenues.

1 118. The method of claim 117 wherein the noun list is mutually-exclusive.

1 119. The method of claim 117 wherein the adjective list is mutually-exclusive.

1 120. The method of claim 119 wherein the noun list is mutually-exclusive.

1 121. The method of doing business of claim 117 further comprising the step of charging a user
2 for the service of specifying.

1 122. The method of doing business of claim 120 further comprising the step of charging a user
2 for the service of specifying.

1 123. The method of doing business of claim 122 wherein the user is charged per specification.

1 124. The method of doing business of claim 122 wherein the user is charged per time period
2 of use.

1 125. The method of doing business of claim 117 further comprising the step of charging an
2 advertiser for the right to display an advertisement to the user of the service of specifying.

1 126. The method of doing business of claim 120 further comprising the step of charging an
2 advertiser for the right to display an advertisement to the user of the service of specifying.

1 127. The method of doing business of claim 117 wherein
2 the specification is of a good,
3 the first list is a list of nouns and the first element is a noun,
4 the second list is a list of adjectives and the second element is an adjective, and

5 the third list is a list of attributes and the members of the set of third elements are
6 attributes.

1 128. The method of doing business of claim 117 wherein
2 the specification is of a service,
3 the first list is a list of verbs and the first element is a verb,
4 the second list is a list of adverbs and the second element is an adverb, and
5 the third list is a list of attributes and the members of the set of third elements are
6 attributes.

1 129. The method of doing business of claim 127 further comprising the step of charging a user
2 for the service of specifying.

1 130. The method of doing business of claim 128 further comprising the step of charging a user
2 for the service of specifying.

1 131. The method of doing business of claim 127 further comprising the step of charging an
2 advertiser for the right to display an advertisement to the user of the service of specifying.

1 132. The method of doing business of claim 128 further comprising the step of charging an
2 advertiser for the right to display an advertisement to the user of the service of specifying.

1 133. The method of doing business of claim 117 comprising the additional step of writing the
2 specification to a listing database.

1 134. The method of doing business of claim 133 comprising the additional step of passing the
2 specification to a server.

1 135. The method of doing business of claim 127 wherein the specification is used to add a
2 description of the good to a database.

1 136. The method of doing business of claim 127 wherein the specification is used to locate
2 a description of a good within a database.

1 137. The method of doing business of claim 133 wherein the specification is written in a
2 different language from that subsequently displayed.

1 138. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the specification is passed in a
2 different language from that subsequently displayed.

1 139. The method of doing business of claim 127 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to facilitate the sale of goods.

1 140. The method of doing business of claim 128 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to facilitate the sale of services.

1 141. The method of doing business of claim 117 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a search engine.

1 142. The method of doing business of claim 119 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a search engine.

1 143. The method of doing business of claim 127 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access an inventory control system.

1 144. The method of doing business of claim 127 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises an inventory control system.

1 145. The method of doing business of claim 117 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a computerized telephone directory service.

1 146. The method of doing business of claim 117 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises a computerized telephone directory service.

1 147. The method of doing business of claim 117 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a point of sale system.

1 148. The method of doing business of claim 120 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises a point of sale system.

1 149. The method of doing business of claim 117 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a computerized translation service.

1 150. The method of doing business of claim 117 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises a computerized translation service.

1 151. The method of doing business of claim 127 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises a system configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 152. The method of doing business of claim 128 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises a system configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 153. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access on-line computerized good sales.

1 154. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access local computerized goods sales.

1 155. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to order goods on-line.

1 156. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to order services on-line.

1 157. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to order goods locally.

1 158. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to order services locally.

1 159. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access an on-line search engine.

1 160. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a local search engine.

1 161. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access an inventory control system.

1 162. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises an inventory control system.

1 163. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a customer assistance software.

1 164. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a computerized telephone directory service.

1 165. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises a computerized telephone directory service.

1 166. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a point of sale system.

1 167. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises a point of sale system.

1 168. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access a computerized translation service.

1 169. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises a computerized translation service.

1 170. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access an advertisement system.

1 171. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises an advertisement system.

1 172. The method of doing business of claim 170 wherein the advertisement system comprises
2 a system configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 173. The method of doing business of claim 171 wherein the advertisement system comprises
2 a system configured to assist the user in authoring classified advertisements.

1 174. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system is
2 configured to access an Internet web page authoring system.

1 175. The method of doing business of claim 134 wherein the data processing system
2 comprises an Internet web page authoring system.